

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

**CHAIRMAN—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-
STATE AND JUDICIARY**

HOMELAND SECURITY

**TRANSPORTATION-TREASURY
AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**CO-CHAIR—CONGRESSIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS**



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 17, 2003

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www.house.gov/wolf/

The Honorable Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

We are writing to express our concern that Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, still has not been brought before the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face charges of war crimes. We ask you to put pressure on the Nigerian government to hand Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to stand trial. Charles Taylor has stated that he plans to return to Liberia one day. We can not let this happen.

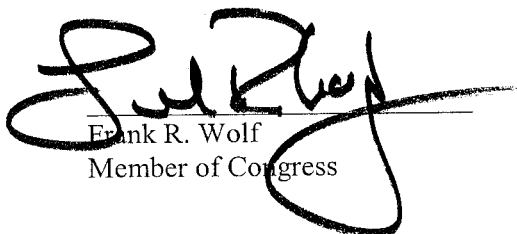
The legacy of Charles Taylor's human rights abuses and corruption in Liberia is deplorable. Charles Taylor sponsored a ten-year civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone and has inflicted suffering on innocent men, women and children in unprecedented acts of cruelty, all done to satisfy the avarice of a cruel despot.

The UN-backed war crimes court unsealed an indictment on Charles Taylor at the beginning of June. He is accused of "bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law." It is well known that he provided financial support, military training, personnel, arms and other forms of assistance to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to destabilize Sierra Leone and thereby gain access to her diamond wealth.

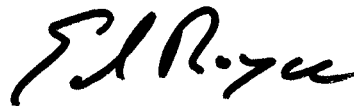
Charles Taylor organized and ordered armed attacks throughout Sierra Leone to terrorize the civilian population and ultimately punish them for failing to provide sufficient support to the RUF, or for supporting the legitimate government. The attacks routinely included unlawful killings, abductions, forced labor, physical and sexual violence, the use of child soldiers and looting.

We have no doubt that you have found Charles Taylor's catalogue of crimes against humanity as abhorrent as we have. If we fail to bring men like this to justice, how can we expect similar atrocities not to occur in the future? Again, we urge you to do all you can to have the Nigerian government hand Charles Taylor over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to stand trial; otherwise, he may someday return to power in Liberia.

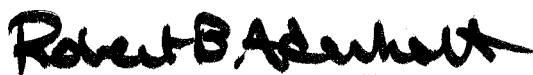
Sincerely,



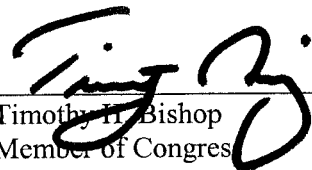
Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce
Member of Congress



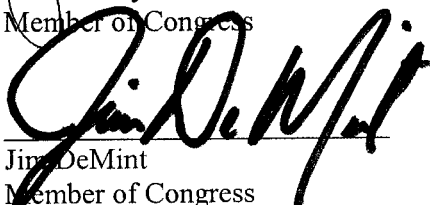
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



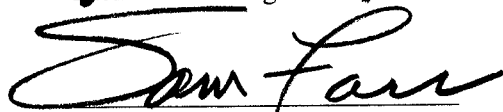
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



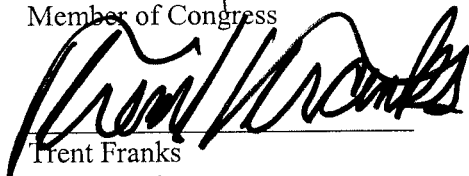
John Abney Culberson
Member of Congress



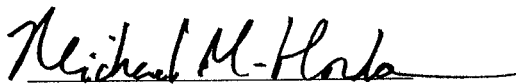
Jim DeMint
Member of Congress



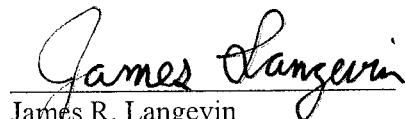
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



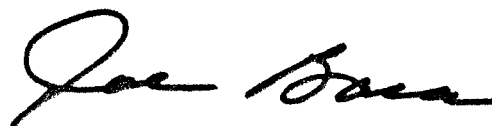
Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



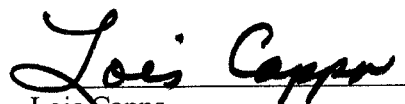
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



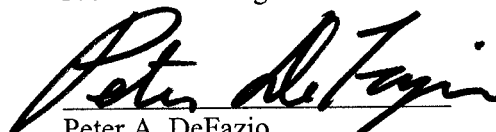
Tom Osborne
Member of Congress



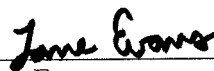
Joe Baca
Member of Congress



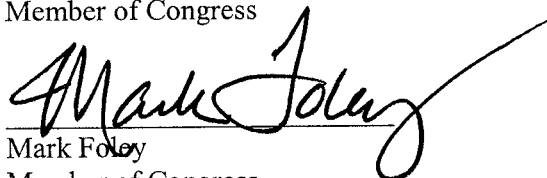
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



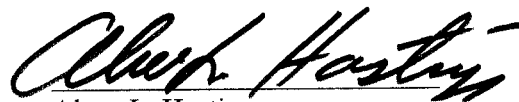
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



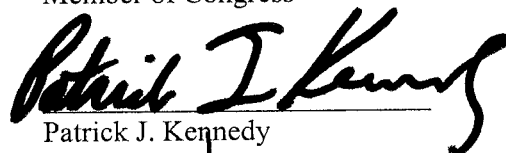
Lane Evans
Member of Congress



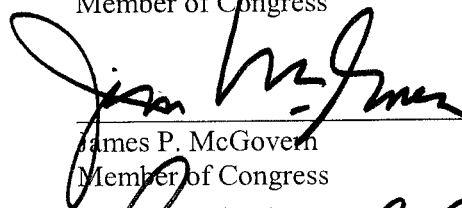
Mark Foley
Member of Congress



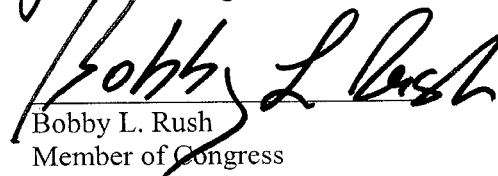
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

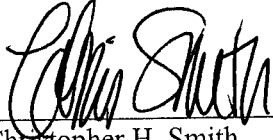


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

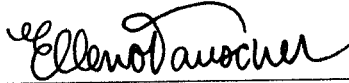
The Honorable Colin Powell

October 17, 2003

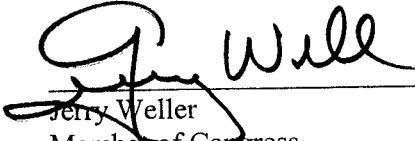
Page 3



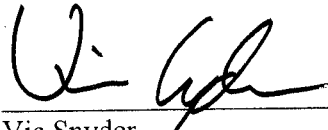
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



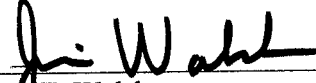
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



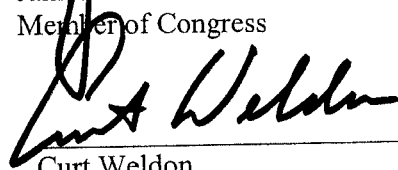
Jerry Weller
Member of Congress



Vic Snyder
Member of Congress



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress



Curt Weldon
Member of Congress